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NEWS

New Mexico has raised the salary of county superintendent from \$900 to \$1,500.

According to the *Educational Times*, the study of French in England is steadily increasing, and that of German declining.

Signs of seeming decline of interest in classical study in England come from several sources. Not only does Mr. Benson, in his presidential address to the Modern Language Association, regard the retaining of Greek and Latin in secondary schools as an impossibility, but similar sentiments were expressed at the annual meeting of assistant masters in secondary schools. Dr. H. F. Heath stated that it might be safely said that Latin would never again be taught in lower secondary schools. He advocates the preservation of modern foreign languages in those schools; French to come first, and German to follow in two years.

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The Association of Head-Masters in England passed a resolution at its annual meeting recommending military training in secondary schools, with the provision that after the first year of disciplinary work the training should be such as would exercise intelligence—map-drawing, scouting, military history.

In the recent establishment of the new retirement fund the Philadelphia Board of Education has been more than generous. In New York this fund is supported by liquor-license fees, in Boston and Chicago by the teachers themselves; in Philadelphia alone, of all large cities, it is recognized as a legitimate claim upon school funds.

According to the San Francisco Call, "it is asserted by one of our well-informed consuls that the introduction of American educators and American educational methods into the Argentine Republic some years ago resulted in a revolution of that country's educational system, and that fact is held by educators to be the beginning of the latest period of national growth and development."

The Educational News, London. has been publishing extended accounts of American schools by Miss Margaret Fisher, of the Edinburgh schools. As

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compared to England, she finds the United States very lavish in expenditures for sites, buildings, and equipment, though hardly coming up to the standard thus set in the salaries of its teachers. She believes that we surpass England in practical school hygiene.

The Religious Education Association, which held its fourth annual meeting in February at Rochester, N. Y., is attracting more and more notice. The *Outlook* sums up the characteristics of this association as being breadth of vision, absence of discord and controvesry, and practical working contact with life. The association embraces seventeen departments, covering every grade and kind of education.

The growing interchange of teachers and inspectors of schools between England and her colonies has been commented on by Mr. E. B. Sargent, educational adviser to the high commissioner of South Africa. Hitherto the flow of teachers has been almost entirely from the older to the newer country. Mutual exchanges, such as that recently made between Natal and the Scotch Education Department, are considered advantageous to the union of the colonies and the mother-country.

The growing interest in school hygiene has been marked in Germany by a vacation course on the subject given in Göttingen, under the direction of Dr. von Esmarch, professor of hygiene. Topics treated were the hygiene of air and water, and the qualities which should be demanded of both; the schoolhouse, including location, construction, decoration, temperature, heating, lighting, ventilation, and seating. Under the latter heading the proper teaching of writing was discussed, together with the effect of position on health. This is the first vacation course in hygiene given for the western provinces of Germany, though a similar undertaking was begun four years ago in Posen at the request of the teachers in that province.

The Zeitschrift für Schulgesundheitspflege for January contains an account of the life and work of the late Herman Cohn, who more than any other man helped to introduce quantitative and scientific methods into the modern study of school hygiene. He was sixty-nine years old when he died, on the 11th of last September, and as shown by the table at the end of the account, during the forty-five years of his active life had written 306 articles and pamphlets. His greatest contributions were along the line of treatment for defective vision among school children. He made an exhaustive study of its causes, comparing schools of all kinds and grades for the sake of scientific accuracy. He worked untiringly for the fulfilment of his ideal: "no school without its oculist;" and most of his articles bore, directly or indirectly, on These comprised, however, everything from popular discussions of size and character of type in schoolbooks, natural and artificial lighting, and general questions on school hygiene, to the more technical reports of operations. Of such operations he performed more than 8,000 during the thirty years after the opening of his clinic in Breslau

On January 10 the Journal of Education published an article by Mr. Winship, entitled "A Fine Record," which mentioned as noteworthy the percentage of boys in the high school at Benton Harbor, Mich., where it is 40.4. Since then letters have been coming in from many high schools which show an even higher percentage. The highest yet given is that of Wakefield, Mass., where the boys number 43.9 per cent. of the total enrolment.

The Boston School Board has recently adopted a new principle in the organization of high schools, which has several important possibilities. The teachers of the several subjects, such as English, Latin, mathematics, in each high school are organized into a department with a head who is responsible for the general plan of the work. Six such departments have been established in each of the boys' high schools. The salary for a head of a department may begin at \$2,340 instead of \$1,500, the beginner's salary for other high-school positions, and may increase up to \$3,204. This should make it possible to secure and retain a higher class of men for these positions. It should also have a corrective influence on the general tendency in American education, which is manifest at all parts of the system, to give the more desirable salaries to administrative positions only.